

V.—BIRMINGHAM JEWELLERY.

The love of personal ornaments forms one of the characteristics of human nature, being found in all classes of society, and in all countries, whether enjoying the blessings of civilization or remaining in a state of savagery. The Indian squaw, who decorates her person with a few beads or bits of glass, simply indulges in

the same passion which leads a fashionable lady to transform herself into a kind of perambulating jeweller's shop. In this respect the Indian chief, the Freemason, and the Good Templar, are pretty much alike, although each might feel offended at being classed with the other two. Yet this weakness, if such

it may be degraded, of the human race, has not been without its compensations. From time immemorial the jeweller's art has been practised with varying success, especially in Oriental lands, where the taste for personal ornaments is more strongly marked than in the colder and less brilliant climes of Europe. Where

the precious metals are unobtainable, or are too expensive, those of an inferior description are largely used, as in India, where the cheap Delhi ornaments and trinkets command an extensive sale. In Europe, Italy has long been renowned for the artistic character of the common jewellery, worn by the peasant classes of that

country, and but for the many political difficulties and obnoxious fiscal systems with which the land of art has, for many generations, been compelled almost hopelessly to contend, a large export trade would have sprung up in Florence and other large centres of Italian manufacturing industry. In England, the systematic production of these trinkets is of compara-

systematic production of cheap imitations is of comparatively modern origin; indeed, there are yet a few who can remember the days, long before the process of electro-plating was dreamed of, when imitation gold brooches and similar articles were almost as costly as those made from the genuine metal.

Mr. Rylands, was at Derby, in the midland counties, where large quantities of common and medium jewelry were produced, Edinburgh and London manufacturing the finest goods. The trade has now almost disappeared from the former places, and London at the present moment depends mainly upon Birmingham for

the supply of articles suitable for the labouring and middle classes. Since 1838 the trade may be said to have been in a flourishing condition, but during the last thirty years its progress has been almost marvellous. The discovery of gold in Australia and California, the vastly increased wealth of England and her colonies,

together with the growing desire for personal adornment, have united to give an unparalleled prosperity to this branch of English manufacturing industry, which now directly or indirectly affords employment to perhaps a larger number of persons than any other trade in Birmingham.

whilst its increasing demand for novelties undoubtedly tends to develop in a larger degree the inventive and artistic faculties of a considerable portion of the inhabitants. With the exception of a few machinists, and in very busy seasons the workmen in the gun trade, the jewellers are as a rule the best paid of all the Birmingham trades.

ham artizans. The rate, of course, varies considerably, but he is a poor workman who can only earn 35s. weekly; 80s. to 50s. may be considered the average of wages—some obtain much more. Enamellers frequently gain as much as from £3 to £5 weekly. Boys are usually apprenticed at fourteen, when they earn 4s. per week, but in some cases as early as twelve, and as late as twenty.

one, when they generally receive 10s. or 11s., working as a rule from eight to seven, with intervals of an hour and a quarter for dinner and half-an-hour for tea. Youths sometimes make a considerable sum by working overtime, but of late years this system has become much discouraged thanks to the influence of mutual

It is somewhat singular, and contrary to what might have been expected, that only comparatively few females are employed in the trade. Its cleanliness and the delicate manipulation required would appear to adapt it especially for women. Two branches only

give them employment—one is the "guard chain" and the other is the ordinary presswork, when they cut out or form the "roughs," but a considerable number indirectly obtain their living in connection with the trade by making paper and leather boxes, which are largely used now.

only to protect, but also to set off the finished article. The absence of the female element in the jewellery trades is still more remarkable when it is considered that it is not a result of trades' unionism. The jewellery trade furnishes a most interesting and important illustration of a peculiarity which places

Birmingham is favourable contrast with every other large town and centre of industry in the kingdom, namely, the great number of small but independent manufacturers it supports. There are comparatively few large manufactories, most of the articles for which it is noted being produced in shops where five to fifty

hands are employed. Probably nine out of every ten of the master jewellers, who are now carrying on business of their own account, were originally workmen. In one instance, at least, not less than twelve independent concerns are now in active operation, each employing a number of hands; the principals of these twelve concerns having all been employed as apprentices or

workmen in a manufactory which itself has been established within five and thirty years. The tendency of workmen to become employers is as strongly marked in the Birmingham jewellery trades as in the boot and shoe trades of Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. All that is needed for a workman to start as a master

is a peculiarly shaped bench and a leather apron, one or two pounds' worth of tools, including a blow pipe, and for materials a few sovereigns and some ounces of copper and zinc. His shop may be the top room of his house, or a small building over the wash-house, at a rent of 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week, and

the indispensable gas jet, which the gas company will supply on credit. With these appliances, and a skilful hand, he may produce scarf-pins, studs, links, rings, locket, &c., &c., for all of which he will find a ready market on the Saturday among the numerous "factors," whose special business it is to supply the

As illustrating the progress of taste in Birmingham it may be stated that style is becoming a study amongst managers and working men. One firm requires all apprentices to undertake to attend some School of Art during the whole term of their apprenticeship, so as to fit

For the benefit of the uninitiated in jewellery

matters, and their name is legion, it should be mentioned that the term "gold," as understood in the jewellery trade, must not be taken to mean pure gold which is never used. The standard gold, as used in the coins of the realm, has 22 parts pure in 24; watch cases have 18 parts in 24 pure, and the usual quality of "gold" work made and sold is alloyed with 9 parts

of inferior metal in 24, and, as might be expected, considerable quantities are produced with a large amount of alloy. We do not know what rule exists in Germany or Italy with respect to the amount of alloy allowed in the preparation of cheap gold, but article sold in France as gold must be officially stamped, and

must contain 75 per cent. pure gold. The use of zinc alone and in combination with silver as alloys have enabled the manufacturers to produce the rich variation of yellow and coloured gold now so much in demand. The gold is melted and alloyed by the manufacturers themselves. It is furnished to them in grains or bars.

Australian gold is not largely used in the trade, neither is that obtained from California, old metal being preferred. A large quantity of obsolete or old

fashioned ornaments, and old foreign and English coin is annually melted and raised. The Bank of England supplies old coin to manufacturers at £8 17s. 10½d. per ounce. This as well as old foreign coin is in demand as containing exactly ascertained amounts of alloy, and for the same, if not for other reasons, it is probable

that large quantities of new sovereigns and their way to the crucible. Gilt toys is a technical term applied to personal ornaments of all descriptions, in which metals, gilt, or simply coloured are used, either alone or in combination with imitation or real stones, cameos, mosaics, ivory, bone, jet, and other materials. The

trade is largely carried on in Birmingham, and has displayed to a considerable extent articles of a similar kind which were imported from France and Germany. The beauty of many of these articles, both as regards form and finish, is surprising. The process of electro-

100

<http://nla>.

<http://nla.>

good chance, if not of retaining their language

The programme of Lord BEACONSFIELD is made up of two points, the first comprising the unity, and the second the influence, of the Empire. The head of the Imperial Government, in his usual style of clever mystification, asks the country to return a Parliament that will not lend itself to a policy of decomposition that will be worthy of the power of England, and resolve to maintain it. Sir STAFFORD NORFOLK promises that, if restored to power, the Tories will devote the future to domestic reform. This promise is, doubtless, intended to supply a counterpoise to the domestic programme which has been furnished by the Whigs. In the sphere of domestic legislation, and indeed, of legislation generally, the

Tories during the last six years have done little or nothing. Scarcely a domestic measure of first-rate importance has been passed since Lord DRACONFIELD succeeded to power. The Endowed Schools and the Primary Education Act of the present Government were but appendages to the measures passed by the Government of Mr. GLADSTONE. The Intermediate Education Act for Ireland was also a sequel to the policy which dictated the Irish Church and Lands Acts. The most pretentious of the measures of the present Government was the Artizans and Labourers' Dwellings Act, and this, chiefly because its provisions were permissive and not compulsory, has become a dead letter. When the Government became triumphant, they certainly promised some measure of this kind, but it has not yet been

been charged with harassing the home interests of the nation; Lord BRIDGES accepted office to improve them. Nevertheless a party succeed to power with brighter opportunity. About a generation had passed since a Tory Ministry had a reliable majority in the House of Commons. During forty-four years the Tories had held the administration nine years, and the Liberals thirty-five, and in only five of the forty-four years had there been a clear Conservative majority. There was scarcely a party in England that was not weary of the Liberals and that was not prepared to welcome change. The Church was disatisfied with Mr. GLADSTONE's ecclesiastical legislation in Ireland, and the Nonconformists were displeased

over the concessions made in the Education Bill Act in England. The Radicals condemned the Gladstone Ministry because it did not go far enough, and the Conservatives because it went too far. The brewers and distillers were angry at the Licensing Act, and the extreme Protestant party condemned what they regarded as Roman Catholic proclivities of the Liberal chief. At the head of all the dissentients stood Mr. DISRAELI denouncing the Gladstone policy as one of invasion and spoliation, of plundering and blundering. The Conservatives, if returned to power, would see that domestic interests were no longer harassed, and that the country was shown a better way.

So far as the United Kingdom itself is concerned, this article has certainly not been

fulfilled. The aim of the Conservatives has been to keep their party together and to stand what they have called British interests. The reputation of the BRACONFIELD Government will in future depend first upon its Imperial and second, upon its foreign policy. By the first it has claimed for the Crown as against the Parliament prerogatives which have been disputed or denied, at least, during the last half-century, and by the second it has made its mother country play a part in foreign politics which she certainly had not played for many years before. The work which the BRACONFIELD Government has done has unquestionably been done abroad and not at home. As to the character of the work itself opinions are greatly divided.

The policy has raised England from being a second-class to a first-class power, while the Liberals contend that the policy has from beginning to end been one of modorra and moderation. On the one side it is held that the Government has checkmated Russia, while on the other side it has been contended that it has successfully played Russia's game. It is argued that during the last six years we have often been worsted by Russian diplomacy, and that by the war in which we were Russia's chief antagonists, the Czar was an imminent danger. By that war he secured the sea ports of Batoum and the fortress of Kars; the liberation and the sympathies of Bulgaria, a considerable slice of Roumania, and a large portion of Armenia. Our gains have been the

Mr. James Howard, the maker of agricultural implements in England, has addressed

a mild remonstrance to the Exhibition Commissioners at Melbourne, on the subject of protection. He intimates that English manufacturers would be quite justified in refusing to exhibit at all. They do not, however, propose to take so violent a step, and, for their behalf he contents himself with reasoning on the subject. The English makers of agricultural implements are invited by the Government to exhibit their wares at Melbourne, while at the same time the policy of the Government is to discourage an trade between them and the Victorian farmers. The Exhibition Commissioners say "Come, the Commissioner of Customs says "It must not come." The present duty is "It should be given the market to the local manufacturer."

The local manufacturer has the advantage of being on the spot, and of understanding exactly what are the requirements of the colonial farmer. We have understood that the effect of the recent trial of implements at Orange was to give exhibitors some fresh light on the special requirements of our farmers. There can be no doubt that the manufacturer who most closely studies the special wants of his customers is the man most likely to drive a successful trade.

possible enough, however, that a majority of them may be the latter, looking to the wide spread of the protectionist here in Victoria; and in that case the Government would be addressed to them suitably enough. As a matter of fact, however, we may suppose the document to have been really addressed to the people of Victoria by the Commissioners, and a direct and formal answer is not required; but whoever may undertake to give an authoritative reply ought fairly to meet Mr. HOWARD's argument. That gentleman points out how much free trade has done to improve agricultural machinery in England, and how America has suffered from the opposite policy. His arguments are not theoretical, but rest on the distinct principles of politics

new French retains in the memory of the French people, who remember that M. DE FAVENET is the intimate friend and ally of M. DE GAMBETTA, whose anti-clerical fervour is notorious. The power of the Radical party is now all but supreme. They cannot restrain themselves from attacking the Church, and which they look upon as the cause of the living cause, and the strength of the Conservative and the Republican idea is in the extinction of clericalism in France would be the death of France. But the Church has yet too strong hold upon the country districts to be easily conquered. M. DE FAVENET has received a check which he now proposes to meet by reviving the obsolete laws against the Jesuits. It is clear according to our notions of liberty, they are of no man should be put under civil disabilities. But our notions on this point have never been dominant in any Catholic country, and in France

day, 12th, at 4 a.m. The
Cape Maerton on Friday, 19th, at 9 a.m.; passed Smoky Cape on
Monday, 20th, at 3 p.m.; entered Sydney Heads on Sunday,

SEND FOR PRICED LIST AND SAVE MONEY
WASHINGTON, D. C. H. BOULDER'S Patent Medicine, Drugs

[illegible]

AGRICULTURAL

ORCHARDS for SALE W. DOUGLASS, 150, Pitt-st.
FOR SALE, Garden-street, Alexandria, COTTAGE,
 rooms, washhouse. John Osborne, Boundary-st., Alexandria.
YIMONT.—For SALE, 35 feet of (freehold) LAND,
 near Washington. Apply D. MCNICOL, Builder, 154, John-
 st., Fyrmont.
MARLBOROUGH.—For SALE, Weatherboard
 HOUSE, 2 rooms and kitchen, 10 feet frontage, 50 feet
 B, £140. W. S. WHITE, 85, Elizabeth-street.
FOR SALE, COTTAGE, Annandale; Chambers, sepa-
 rately or in terrace, at the Glebe; Land, Canterbury, Cook's
 River, and elsewhere, and a large number of other properties.

2300, sample of area at Corn Exchange, Haymarket. G. F.
RSTON.

REGISTER your Houses for Sale and to Let on Stone
and Martin's List, George-street, Haymarket, facing the
and J. C. Bank.

STONE and MARTIN, Auctioneers.

OR SALE, GRAZING ESTATE, Liverpool Plains,
carry 300 cattle. Farnell and Martin, Sds, George-
street, Haymarket.

OR SALE, ALLOTMENTS, Peterborough, Auckland,
Bondi, Dulwich Grove. Farnell and Martin, Sds, Geo-
rge-street, Haymarket.

To Let.
COMFORTABLE HOUSE to LET, 400, Dowling-street: gas, bath, &c., taxes paid. 560, George-street.
HOUSE, 8 rooms, kitchen, and abut, 116, No. 47, Barcom-street, Darlinghurst. G. H. Curtis, 115 Pitt-street.
HOUSE, 4 rooms, kitchen, 124 1/2, Mc'Gurk-street, Paddington. G. H. Curtis, 115 Pitt-street.
SHEPHERD - To Let, No. 6, Boylson-terrace; every convenience. Apply Boylson and Co., 101, Victoria-street.
T. Moore, Bath, 480, Pitt-street, Sydney.

DELTAIDE.—A rare opportunity.—To LET, from 1st September next, a large SHOP, the best position in London. Apply to A. Kaufmann, 67, Rundle-street, Adelaide.

PRETTYLY FURNISHED RESIDENCE. 7 rooms, gas, bath, overlooking the Palace. E. Ramsay, house agent, George-street.

WALMALAIN.—To LET, COTTAGE, Water-cum-street, rent 26d. Apply Mr. Spencer, Adolphus-street.

MURDOCH.—To LET, 6-roomed balcony house.

HOUSE, 40, GEORGE-ST., or E. road, Sydney, see
 BROUGHTON-STREET. -- To LET, large COT-
 TAGE, 4 rooms, bath, store-room, bath, large kitchen,
 or without stairs, Apply Mr. Baker, Mitchell and
 Broughton streets, Glesbe.
 COTTAGE to LET, 6 rooms, hall, and kitchen. E.
 Shaw, grocer, Pitt-street, Bedford 'bue stand.
 DROVYDON. -- To LET, the prettiest COTTAGE on the
 line, 7 rooms, washhouse, bath, firehouse; abundance of
 garden; on a hill; £20 a year. A. Modern, 756, George-street.
 FIRST CLASS SHEDS, BENTONDS &c. &c.

FOREST LODGE.—Balconey HOUSE to LRT, on bus route, containing 8 rooms, bath, laundry, kitchen; gas and electric; in a gentlemanly neighborhood, University park. E. Ramsey, house agent; or 33, Grand Terrace.

FIRST-CLASS SHOP AND DWELLING TO LET: one of three newly-elected SHOPs, with very convenient family dwelling, known as "Harden's" buildings, Brickfield, together with two-storied store at rear; \$35 1/2 ps per week.

HOUSE TO LET. South Kingston, 7 rooms, &c. D. D. Elphinstone, agent, Glebe.

HOUSE AND STABLES TO LET. Inquire Willow Tree Public House, Ashland-place and Owen-street.

MACDONALD TOWN, close to station, Home, 4 rooms and kitchen; rent, 11s. Handley, grocer, Eskine-st. Road.

ONLY.—To be LET for a term, that desirable property, LLANOLLLEN, the newly-erected residence of the W. H. Rolfe, Esq., deceased, close to the pier, and adjacent to the railway.

NEWTOWN.—House, 5 rooms and kitchen, Bailey-st. Sergeant's boot shop, Newtown Road, or 491, George-street.

MEYERSHAM.—To LET, a COTTAGE, 4 rooms and kitchen, R. Miller, 66, Clarence-street.

SHOP and DWELLING to LET. Apply Grosvener Hotel, Harris-street, Chitago.

MAIL HOUSE and Grounds, Woolloomooloo. Address Charlie, HERALD Office.

OUTH KINGSTON.—No. 2, Brighton-terrace, to
LET, containing hall, 6 rooms, bathroom, kitchen, and
cudry, 3 minutes' from 'bus or rail. Apply David Elphinstone,
Sweet-street, Glouc.

TO CABRENS, &c.—Small House, with stables, good
yard and entrance. 299, Sumner-street.

NO LET, NEW SHOPS AND DWELLINGS, 150 and
152, George-street North. W. H. Paling, 355, George-st.

NO LET, Nos. 31 and 33, Phelps-street, Surrey Hills, 4
rooms, kitchen, balcony, rent 15s.

NO LET, small COTTAGE, comfortable; 8s 6d week.

Mrs. Cluser, Pitt and Raglan streets, Radcliff.

NO LET, COTTAGE, 6 rooms and kitchen; Belmont,
near Ferry. Apply W. Forre, 204, George-street.

NO LET, HOUSE, No. 184, Bourke-street, 4 rooms, &c.
10 minutes' walk from Exhibition or Town Hall.

NO LET, No. 10, Orwell-street, Darlinghurst; every
convenient. Apply on the premises.

NO LET, neat 2-roomed HOUSE, Harbourview-terrace,
Kent-street, near Ebbisham-street.

NO LET, a HOUSE, 8 rooms, bathroom, washhouse, gas,
Yarrington-street, near Ebbisham-street.

NO LET. HOUSE, 4 rooms, kitchen, washhouse, bal-
 cony, hot water, &c., &c., Brook's, Australia-street, Newtown.
 NO LET. COTTAGE, Marshall-street, Surry Hills;
 rent, 12s. Nelson and Hewlett, 114, Sussex-street.
 NO LET. HOUSE, 4 rooms, kitchen, &c., and water.
 Apply 21, Marlborough-street, Surry Hills.
 NO LET. two HOUSES, three and four rooms—the
 latter furnished. No. 137, Campbell-street.
 NO LET, half SHOP, between Crown and Palmer streets,
 99, William-street, Woolloomooloo.

NO LET, 18, Fovaux-street, near Elizabeth-street; rent,
 25s per week.
NO LET, two 4-roomed HOUSES with kitchens, Surry
 Hills; lss. R. Fletcher, 33, Albion-street.
NO LET, near railway, two 4-roomed HOUSES; rent,
 12s and 14s. 150, Devonshire-street, Surry Hills.
NO LET, 7-roomed HOUSE, Liverpool-street, off Glen-
 more Road; large yard. Pigrice Cottage, West-street.
NO LET, HOUSE, 6 rooms, Gordon-street. Apply 298,
 Palmer-street, near Oxford-street.

NO LET, SHOP AND DWELLING, Scotchy Road,
 Waterloo, near Post-office; rent, 12s 6d. Apply S. Park-
er, 10, St. George-street, near the Theatre.
 NO LET, a HOUSE, No. 2, Matilda-terrace, Fish
Road. Key at No. 1.
 NO LET, 4-roomed HOUSE; large yard for stabling.
 129, Gilpe-street, near reservoir.
 NO LET, Yeend-a-place, off George-street West, 4-
 roomed HOUSE. Apply to Miss Gifford, Gymna-
stion, 10, St. George-street.
 NO LET, a 2-roomed COTTAGE, for a quiet couple.
 Apply to Mr. HERRERS, Archie Buchanan Road.

TWO HOUSES to LET, Moore Park and Globe
 Jacob's Hotel, Bathurst and Sussex streets.
 NO LET, Broughton-street, COTTAGE, 3 Rooms,
 rent 6s 6d. Mr. Baker, Mitchell and Broughton-st. Globe
 NO LET, a COTTAGE in Lansdowne-street, Surry
 Hills. Apply 41, Lansdowne-street, Surry Hills.
 NO LET, a HOUSE of 4 rooms and kitchen, sn 12s.
 1, Lloyd, 14, Macquarie-street South.
 NO LET SHOP, corner King and Clarence streets.

TO LET, a COTTAGE, 6 rooms and kitchen, rent 15s.
299, Riley-street, Barry Hills.

TO LET, HOUSE, No. 88, Humphrey-street, Darling-
ton, 7 rooms, bath, washhouse, copper, large yard. Apply
tenises, from 10 till 3.

TO LET, a 10-roomed Family RESIDENCE, fronting
Belmore Park; washhouse, gas, bathroom, &c. Apply 2,
Ford, 191, Macquarie-street South.

TO LET, COTTAGES, Woolbush, Annandale, Forest
Lane, House, Whiggo: Land, Cook's River and Lane

TO LET, No. 1, Hawthorne-terrace, 4 rooms, kitchen
balcony, and verandah. Key at No. 1, D. E. Phelan's
convenient street, Glebe.

TO LET, a new six-room HOUSE, hall, bath, gas,
kitchen-terrace, Cottenham-street, off Glebe Point Road
and Bridge Road. Apply Mrs. Ross, grocer, two doors down.

TO LET, near Circular Quay, a new six-roomed HOUSE,
gas and water throughout, balcony in front and rear;
suitable for city and harbour view. Apply, 3, Gloucester-street
North.

TO LET, commodious HOUSE, Harvest-street,
 Lombard Bay; contains 100 rooms, bath, gas, large yard,
 commanding a splendid view of the harbour; rent moderate.
 Vanheusen, agent, 122, King-street.

TO LET, a comfortable DWELLING, next to Avon
 Road, Newtown Road, containing 9 rooms, large yard, and
 bathing; rent moderate. Mr. John Barnett, Eekford Road,
 Hayward-square.

TO LET, three centrally situated and commodious
 business PREMISES, No. 363, George-street, on door from
 Victoria-street, adjoining the English, Scotch, and Australian Cos-
 tometic Dispensary, and 39, 41, and 43, GORE'S Robertson, 381, George-street.

ROUNDRY.—To LET, by Tender, for a term of years,
 DAWSON'S FOUNDRY, in Lower George-street. Address
 Cornwall, Exchange-buildings, Pitt-street.
 OFFICES and Store to LET, near the Exchange and
 Circular Quay. Callaghan Bros., 53, Pitt-street.
 STORAGE.—ONE FLAT to LET, M. De Laine, Albion
 Stores, 323, Kent-street.
 NO LET, STORE, No. 63, Pitt-street. Apply to Beas
 and Miles, 55, Market-street.
 NO LET, OFFICES, on second floor, No. 65, Exchange-
 and-a-Hill, 8, Margaret-street.

TO LET, a WOOL-WASHING ESTABLISHMENT
with all the appliances. 649, George-street north.

TO LET, 3-store STORE, 30 x 500, Harbour-street,
railway gate, Darling Harbour, back Stormali. C. Kinnear.

TO LET, OFFICES for Insurance or other Commercial
Company, just vacated at the Sun Fire Office and Adelaide
Insurance Co. Apply to Bailey and Co., 91, Pitt-street.

TO LET, a rare chance for BUSINESS, the new
Stores under Kelly and Leon's Opera House in King-street.
Apply daily from 11 to 1 o'clock. Terms moderate.

PRINTED.—Printed and published by JOHN FARRER and Co.,
at the office of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, Pitt-st. and
Stro街, Monday, March 24, 1880.